

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01 EB-07 DLOS-05

FEAE-00 COME-00 ACDA-10 /115 W

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R 291220Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8380

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 5729

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MPOL IN PK SU

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER CONCLUDES UPPER HOUSE DEBATE

REF: NEW DELHI 5416

1. DEFENSE MINISTER SWARAN SINGH WOUND UP THE DEFENSE DEBATE IN THE UPPER HOUSE APRIL 28 PRETTY MUCH AS HE DID IN THE LOWER HOUSE A WEEK EARLIER (REFTEL), WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:

2. THE THREAT TO INDIA: "IT IS FROM PAKISTAN; IT IS ALSO FROM THE NORTHERN BORDERS, FROM CHINA AND THIRDLY THERE IS A LONG COAST AND THE OCEAN ON OUR SOUTHERN PART WHERE WE HAVE GOT DEFINITE AND DISTINCT DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE SAFETY OF INNOCENT SHIPPING, TO SAFEGUARD OUR TRADE INTERESTS AND ALSO TO PROTECT OURSELVES AGAINST ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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AGGRESSIVE TENDENCIES ON OUR COAST, AND LAST OF ALL, PRO-

TECTION OF VITAL INSTALLATIONS INCLUDING OIL INSTALLATIONS IN WHICH WE APPEAR TO BE SUCCEEDING..," SWARAN SINGH SAID. (HE HAD NOT REFERRED TO "AGGRESSIVE TENDENCIES" IN THE EARLIER STATEMENT.) LATER HE ADDED, WITH REGARD TO THE NAVY, "IT IS...OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE THAT WE CONTINUE TO KEEP OUR NAVY IN GOOD SHAPE. MAYBE ORIGINALLY THE DANGERS THAT WE FACED WERE ACROSS THE LAND BORDERS. IT IS QUOTE NATURAL THAT, FIRST THINGS COMING FIRST, WE ATTACHED GREATER IMPORTANCE TO STRENGTHENING OUR ARMY AND ALSO THE AIR FORCE IN SUPPORT OF THE ARMY...BUT WE DO REALIZE THAT THE SITUATION NOW IS SUCH THAT WE WILL HAVE TO GIVE GREATER THOUGHT TO STRENGTHENING OUR NAVY AND...WE ARE SEIZED OF THIS PROBLEM. WE HAVE TAKEN SOME STEPS, FOR INSTANCE, BY ADDING TO THE SUBMARINE ARM. WE HAVE ALSO ARRIVED AT FIRM ARRANGEMENTS TO ACQUIRE MARITIME RECONNAISSANCE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE EQUIPMENT..."

3. CHINA: THE DEFENSE MINISTER ACCUSED CHINA OF GIVING PAKISTAN "BLIND SUPPORT" AND MORE. "WE HAVE NOTICED CAREFULLY THAT IN CERTAIN CASES, THE CHINESE STATEMENT ON THE PAKISTANI CASE IS EVEN MORE STRIDENT AND IS EVEN MORE ANTI-INDIAN AS COMAPRED TO PAKISTAN'S OWN PROJECTION....THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY STRONGLY SUPPORT THE EXTREME POSITION ON ANY MATTER, SAY ON KASHMIR OR ON BANGLADESH, IS SOMETHING WHICH IS VERY AMAZING," HE SAID.

4. SOVIET UNION: SWARAN SINGH SAID, "...WE SHOULD ALWAYS MAKE A DISTINCTION IN OUR MIND BETWEEN OUR RELIABLE FREINDS AND OUR FAIR WEATHER FRIENDS. THIS WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET. THIS IS AGAIN BASED ON EXPERIENCE. WE KNOW THAT IN THE MATTER OF SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT WHICH WE COULD NOT GET FROM OTHER SOURCES THE SOVIET UNION RESPONDED POSITIVELY. WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT. WE ALSO KNOW THAT THEY HELPED US TO MANUFACTURE THE CAPACITY IN OUR COUNTRY LIKE MIG FACTORIS. WE ALSO KNOW THAT WHEN WE REQUIRED ANY SPARES OR SUPPORTING FACILITIES, EVEN AT CRITICAL TIMES, THEY NEVER LET US DOWN."SAXBE

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